THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) The issue of reservation of as nearly as may be one-third of the total number of seats in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies for women is under consideration of the Central Government and as soon as a consensus of the political parties is arrived at, a decision would be taken to introduce the necessary Bill in Parliament. However, the Central Government has no proposal for providing 50 per cent reservation for women and 20 per cent reservation for Other Backward Classes in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.

Iron ore reserve and extraction

†2018. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Bureau of Mines, India has 2212 crore tonnes of iron ore and out of this, 1167 crore tonnes has been extracted by mine-owners;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the continuation of the present trend of export of iron ore would create a crisis of iron ore after ten years;

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the actual status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

(d) Iron ore resources in India, as on 1.4.2005 are estimated at 25.25 billion tonnes, and are likely to last 164 years at the current rate of production.

Implementation of Hoda Committee recommendations

†2019. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to implement the recommendations of Anwarul Hoda Committee for solving a number

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of problems relating to mineral industry and also to attract FDI in this sector;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Committee has made a number of important recommendations for adopting modern methods for basing the mineral industries on improved and advanced techniques alongwith mining and exploiting it at large scale; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith Government's viewpoint thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (c) The High Level Committee setup in the Planning Commission under the chairmanship of Shri Anwarul Hoda to review the National Mineral Policy and recommend possible amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 to give a fillip to private investment in the mining sector has submitted its report on 20.7.2006. The report is being examined.

Capital Disinvestment in NALCO

†2020. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the factual position regarding disinvestment of capital in NALCO;

(b) whether the disinvestment proposal would be cancelled *in toto* in real terms;

(c) if so, the date by when an announcement to this effect would be made; and

(d) the steps taken by his Ministry for cancellation of the disinvestment proposal completely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (d) On 22nd June, 2006, Government had approved a proposal to sell 10% of the paid up equity capital out of Government's shareholding of 87.15% in NALCO through the process of book building. However, subsequently, on 6th July, 2006, Government decided to keep all disinvestment decisions and proposals on hold, pending further review.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.